

1. A method for providing access to cached video footage from multiple networked video cameras, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with a different terminal in a network;

5 simultaneously displaying the plurality of live video streams on a first terminal;

detecting a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed;

obtaining an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream;

and

playing back the cached segment on the first terminal.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video camera comprises a webcam.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one terminal comprises an interactive television system.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

caching the plurality of live video streams within at least one storage device.

20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by the terminal from which the live video stream originated.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is  
cached by the first terminal.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is  
5 cached by an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal  
from which the live video stream originated.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the intermediate network node  
comprises one of a cable head-end and a satellite broadcast center.

10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises one of cable  
network and a satellite network.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises:  
arranging the plurality of live video streams in a grid format on the first  
terminal.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises:  
20 arranging the plurality of live video streams in a ticker format on the first  
terminal.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

moving the displayed video streams in a same direction across at least a portion of a display screen of the first terminal.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises:

5 obtaining the cached segment from the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises:

obtaining the cached segment from an intermediate network node linking the  
10 first terminal and the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises:

obtaining the cached segment from a storage device integrated with the first  
15 terminal.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein playing back the cached segment

comprises:

enlarging the cached segment as displayed on the first terminal relative to the  
live video streams.

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17. The method of claim 1, wherein playing back the cached segment  
comprises:

replacing the live video streams being displayed on the first terminal with a display of the cached segment.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the cached segment comprises a  
5 beginning point and an ending point, and wherein playing back the cached segment comprises:

playing back the cached segment in reverse direction starting with the ending point thereof.

10 19. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving comprises:  
selectively receiving a live video stream based upon a corresponding entry in  
a video phonebook.

15 20. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises:  
moving a selection outline around a displayed video stream in response to  
user activation of navigational buttons on a remote control device; and  
detecting user activation of a specifically-designated button on the remote  
control device for providing access to cached video footage.

20 21. A computer program product comprising program code for performing  
method for providing access to cached video footage from multiple networked video  
cameras, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with a different terminal in a network; simultaneously displaying the plurality of live video streams on a first terminal; detecting a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed; 5 obtaining an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream; and playing back the cached segment on the first terminal.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein at least one video

10 camera comprises a webcam.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein at least one terminal comprises an interactive television system.

15 24. The computer program product of claim 21, the method further comprising:

caching the plurality of live video streams within at least one storage device.

25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one live

20 video stream is cached by the terminal from which the live video stream originated.

26. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by the first terminal.

27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the live video stream originated.

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28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the intermediate network node comprises one of a cable head-end and a satellite broadcast center.

29. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the network  
10 comprises one of cable network and a satellite network.

30. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein displaying  
comprises:  
arranging the plurality of live video streams in a grid format on the first  
15 terminal.

31. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein displaying  
comprises:  
arranging the plurality of live video streams in a ticker format on the first  
20 terminal.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, the method further comprising:

moving the displayed video streams in a same direction across at least a portion of a display screen of the first terminal.

33. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein obtaining  
5 comprises:

obtaining the cached segment from the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

34. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein obtaining  
10 comprises:

obtaining the cached segment from an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

35. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein obtaining  
15 comprises:

obtaining the cached segment from a storage device integrated with the first terminal.

36. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein playing back the  
20 cached segment comprises:

enlarging the cached segment as displayed on the first terminal relative to the live video streams.

37. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein playing back the cached segment comprises:

replacing the live video streams being displayed on the first terminal with a display of the cached segment.

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38. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the cached segment comprises a beginning point and an ending point, and wherein playing back the cached segment comprises:

10 playing back the cached segment in reverse direction starting with the ending point thereof.

39. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein receiving comprises:

15 selectively receiving a live video stream based upon a corresponding entry in a video phonebook.

40. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein detecting comprises:

20 moving a selection outline around a displayed video stream in response to user activation of navigational buttons on a remote control device; and detecting user activation of a specifically-designated button on the remote control device for providing access to cached video footage.

41. A system for providing access to cached video footage from multiple networked video cameras, the system comprising:

a stream reception component configured to receive a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with

5 a different terminal in a network;

a stream display component configured to simultaneously display the plurality of live video streams on a first terminal;

a stream selection component configured to detect a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed; and

10 a cache interface component configured to obtain an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream; wherein the stream display component is further configured to play back the cached segment on the first terminal.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein at least one video camera comprises

15 a webcam.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein at least one terminal comprises an interactive television system.

20 44. The system of claim 41, further comprising:

a stream caching component configured to cache the plurality of live video streams within at least one storage device.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by the terminal from which the live video stream originated.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein at least one live video stream is  
5 cached by the first terminal.

47. The system of claim 44, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the live video stream originated.

10 48. The system of claim 47, wherein the intermediate network node comprises one of a cable head-end and a satellite broadcast center.

15 49. The system of claim 41, wherein the network comprises one of cable network and a satellite network.

50. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream display component is further configured to arrange the plurality of live video streams in a grid format on the first terminal.

20 51. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream display component is further configured to arrange the plurality of live video streams in a ticker format on the first terminal.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the stream display component is further configured to move the displayed video streams in a same direction across at least a portion of a display screen of the first terminal.

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53. The system of claim 41, wherein the cache interface is further configured to obtain the cached segment from the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

10 54. The system of claim 41, wherein the cache interface is further configured to obtain the cached segment from an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated.

15 55. The system of claim 41, wherein the cache interface is further configured to obtain the cached segment from a storage device integrated with the first terminal.

20 56. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream display component is further configured to enlarge the cached segment as displayed on the first terminal relative to the live video streams.

57. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream display component is further configured to replace the live video streams being displayed on the first terminal with a display of the cached segment.

5 58. The system of claim 41, wherein the cached segment comprises a beginning point and an ending point, and wherein the stream display component is further configured to play back the cached segment in reverse direction starting with the ending point thereof.

10 59. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream reception component is further configured to selectively receive a live video stream based upon a corresponding entry in a video phonebook.

15 60. The system of claim 41, wherein the stream selection component is further configured to move a selection outline around a displayed video stream in response to user activation of navigational buttons on a remote control device and detect user activation of a specifically-designated button on the remote control device for providing access to cached video footage.

20 61. A method for providing access to cached video footage from multiple webcams, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with an interactive television system in a network;

caching the live video streams within a storage device;

5 simultaneously displaying the plurality of live video streams on a first interactive television system;

detecting a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed;

retrieving an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream from the storage device; and

10 playing back the cached segment on the first interactive television system.

62. A computer program product comprising program code for performing a method for providing access to cached video footage from multiple webcams, the method comprising:

15 receiving a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with an interactive television system in a network;

caching the live video streams within a storage device;

simultaneously displaying the plurality of live video streams on a first

20 interactive television system;

detecting a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed;

retrieving an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream from the storage device; and

playing back the cached segment on the first interactive television system.

63. A system for providing access to cached video footage from multiple webcams, the system comprising:

- 5        a stream reception component configured to receive a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with an interactive television system in a network;
- 10      a storage device configured to store video streams;
- a stream caching component configured to cache the live video streams within the storage device;
- a stream display component configured to simultaneously display the plurality of live video streams on a first interactive television system;
- a stream selection component configured to detect a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed; and
- 15      a cache interface component configured to retrieve an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream from the storage device; wherein the stream display component is further configured to play back the cached segment on the first interactive television system.